

**Top Secret**

(Security Classification)

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

24 JAN 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, 40 Committee

SUBJECT : Photography of Berbera, Somalia

REFERENCE : General Brown's Memorandum, "U-2  
Photography of Somalia"

5 December 1975 - ER75-12701

5 Dec  
CONF 73

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1. This memorandum provides the attached satellite  
[ ] photography related to the delivery of the  
Soviet floating drydock to the port of Berbera, Somalia.  
This photography is provided in response to General  
Brown's request for possible release under certain  
conditions.

Background

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2. Following the series of U-2 missions [ ]  
[ ] to Somalia last spring and summer and the sub-  
sequent release of photographs by the Secretary of  
Defense, General Brown in the referenced memorandum  
requested 40 Committee approval of the concept of contin-  
uing such operations [ ]

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[ ] At the 11 December  
40 Committee meeting, I proposed that a decision on this  
issue be deferred until we could determine the capability  
of other sources to acquire suitable photographs for  
release if needed.

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3. The recent transfer of a large Soviet drydock  
from the Black Sea to the port of Berbera has provided  
us with the opportunity 1) to demonstrate the extent of  
Soviet involvement in this area, 2) to acquire and release

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Classified by [ ]  
Exempt from automatic downgrading and  
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Category: 5S (1), (2), (3) or (4)  
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Director of Central Intelligence

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7. Insofar as our intelligence requirements on Soviet involvement in Somalia are concerned, our photographic needs are being adequately served by our satellite systems. If it is a question of public acceptance of the validity of our concern with this activity, I believe that the release of properly sanitized KEYHOLE photography could serve such a purpose also.

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8. It is important to note that the release of the attached photography of Berbera would be the first instance of releasing photography from classified satellite reconnaissance systems. Under present regulation, approved by the President, photography such as the attached must be classified no lower than SECRET/NOFORN. One of the principal reasons for this is to avoid official public acknowledgment of the US satellite reconnaissance program. I believe that this photography can be released and that official acknowledgment of the satellite reconnaissance program can be avoided if the release makes no attribution as to the type of vehicle used to collect it. I also believe that such release would not jeopardize the viability of intelligence sources and methods.

#### Recommendation

9. I recommend that the 40 Committee continue to defer approval of additional U-2 flights to Somalia, that on some suitable occasion the attached photographs be released to the public by the Secretary of Defense or other appropriate official, and that there be no attribution as to the means of acquiring the photography.

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby

Attachments:  
Photographs

cc: 40 Committee Members

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SUBJECT: Photography of Berbera, Somalia

CONCUR:

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Deputy Director for Intelligence

21 JAN 1976

Date

21 JAN 1976

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Deputy Director for Science and Technology

Date

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Deputy Director for Operations

21 JAN 1976

Date

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DDI/CGAS/Reconnaissance Group (20 Jan 76)

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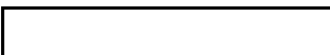
ATTACHMENT: Proposed Release Statement

This is a photograph of a large Soviet floating drydock

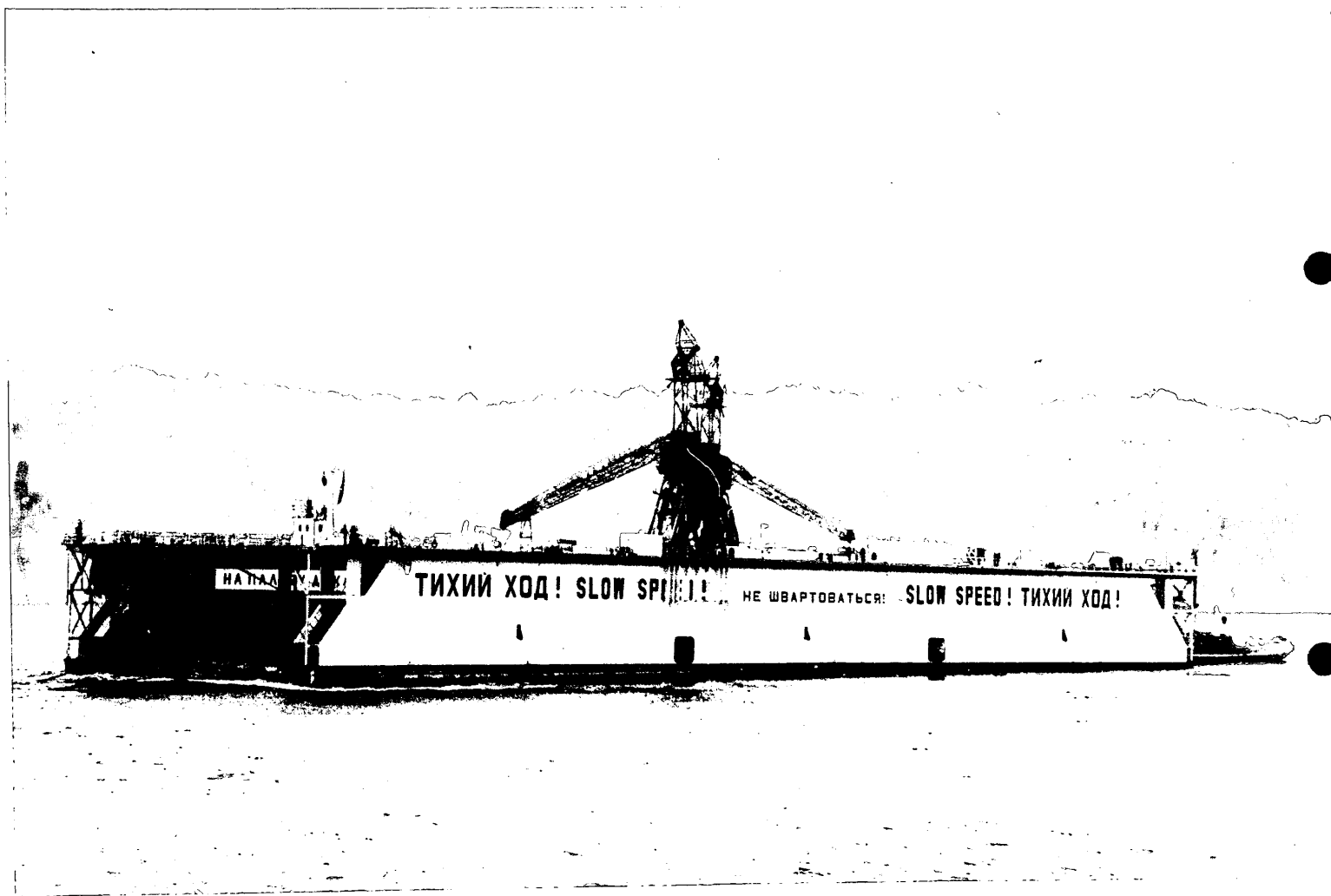


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A drydock of this size is capable of handling many types of Soviet submarines and surface vessels up to the size of guided missile cruisers.



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B.

ATTACHMENT: Proposed Release Statement

This photograph

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depicts the Somali Port of Berbera on the Gulf of Aden. The photographic enlargement shows a Soviet floating drydock in the harbor with a heavy lift buoy tender at one end. Soviet naval vessels observed at the mole include a submarine, a guided missile destroyer, a submarine tender, a repair ship, and a barracks ship. A large guided missile boat and a patrol boat which the Soviets have reportedly furnished to the Somali navy were also present. An oiler is anchored to two POL mooring buoys in the lower right hand corner of the photograph.

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C.

ATTACHMENT: Proposed Release Statement

This photograph, an enlargement of the previous photograph, provides an additional view of the Soviet drydock and heavy lift vessel at Berbera, Somalia.

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